

QUEER MISTAKES IN INSURANCE EXAMINATIONS.

If the doctor is to believe all the statements made to him by applicants for life insurance, certain families have been distinguished by their strange happenings. The *British Medical Journal* selects a few of the most amusing from a large series of blunders:

"Mother died in infancy."

"Father went to bed feeling well, and the next morning woke up dead."

"Grandfather died suddenly at the age of 103. Up to this time he bid fair to reach a ripe old age."

"Applicant does not know cause of mother's death, but states that she fully recovered from her last illness."

"Applicant has never been fatally sick."

"Father died suddenly; nothing serious."

"Applicant's brother, who was an infant, died when he was a mere child."

"Grandfather died from gunshot wound, caused by an arrow shot by an Indian."

"Applicant's fraternal parents died when he was a child."

"Mother's last illness was caused from chronic rheumatism, but she was cured before death."

THE BULLETIN OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The August number of the Bulletin of the State Board of Health is devoted largely to the subject of vaccination, and this question is discussed in all its phases and from every standpoint. There are excellent articles by Stanley P. Black of Pasadena, Bancroft of Los Angeles, Regensburger, Russ and Alderson of San Francisco, Pope of Watsonville, Hogan of Vallejo and Medical Inspector Gatewood of the United States Navy. The legal aspects of vaccination are discussed by J. E. Gardner, the attorney for the Board, and there are voluminous statistics gathered from all portions of the State. Dr. Wm. F. Snow, the Board's Secretary, reviews at length the history of smallpox in California. This *Bulletin* will greatly aid the Board in enforcing the vaccination law, for it appeals to the general reading public. The *Bulletin* will be sent to any citizen of the State on request to the Secretary, Sacramento.

ILLEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND ADVERTISING QUACKS.

A short time ago a circular letter was sent to every registered physician in San Francisco, asking him to report the name and address of any one he suspected of practicing medicine without a license; the machinery of the Board of Examiners was ready to work, and names of illegal practitioners were desired. Less than a half-dozen such names were sent in, but dozens of letters were received calling attention to various advertising concerns. Repeatedly has the Journal made the announcement that all these concerns are either run by some licensed person, or the proprietor has a licentiate in his employ to do the work and take the responsibility. Nearly all of them in San Francisco have been investigated, and this has been found to be the case. The Board of Examiners is ready to proceed with prosecutions, and requests that names of illegal practitioners be communicated to the Board so that the work may go forward.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION.

To the Secretaries of County Medical Societies: The Public Health Commission feel that an energetic campaign for public health must be waged during the coming year, and in order to do this it will be necessary for us to have a good active public health committee in each county medical society.

One of the lines of work we suggest is the giving of three or more public health lectures at suitable places in each county; these lectures to be illustrated by lantern slides. It will be possible in some instances for the State Public Health Committee to furnish a speaker or speakers to give these lectures, but owing to lack of funds to carry on this work, it will be necessary for the local committee to furnish most of the speakers.

We feel that the time has arrived for each county to arrange for an active campaign to secure an annual appropriation of, say, \$10,000, to be used by the State Board of Health to carry on this work properly. The Legislature will meet this fall, and we hope your society, through its public health or other committees, will have all the candidates sign the statement, copies of which have been sent you by Dr. Philip Mills Jones, secretary of the State Medical Society.

If we can induce the next Legislature to give the State Board of Health \$10,000 annually for educational work in hygiene and sanitation, much progress can be made. Up to now, California has spent very little money in public health work.

Will you not co-operate by appointing, to-day if possible, a public health committee for your county society that will be energetic and public-spirited enough to devote some time to the work?

Remember, we must see these legislative candidates at once. Send us the names of your committee without delay. The State Public Health Committee ask you to do this without waiting for a meeting of your society. May we count on your co-operation?

Awaiting your reply, I am,

Faternally yours, F. C. E. MATTISON.

ANOTHER VICTIM OF MEDICAL WORK.

In July last, Dr. Mihran K. Kassabian died in Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia, from cancer following upon an X-ray burn of the hand in 1902. Two years ago Dr. W. W. Keen amputated two fingers, hoping to stop the malignant process. Subsequently Da Costa amputated the arm, and later the pectoral muscles, but the disease continued unchecked. Here in San Francisco we have had at least one similar death from cancer following upon X-ray burn, and there have been, all told, quite a number of such fatalities. Dr. Kassabian was one of the foremost experts in the United States in X-ray work, and his death will be a distinct loss.

DANGER IN THE SUGAR BOWL

A correspondent calls attention to a by no means small danger to be found in many restaurants, particularly of the smaller sort, and in the dining-rooms of the cheaper hotels. A patron will take granulated sugar from the bowl, put it in his cup of tea or coffee, stir it up, and then taste it to see if it is sweet enough. If it is not, he will not infrequently return the same spoon to the sugar bowl for more. Now, should he have a few mucous patches in his mouth, or be an unfortunate in the later stages of tuberculosis, the possible result of his filthy act is not nice to contemplate. It is suggested that only cube sugar be served in open bowls and that powdered or granulated sugar be served in covered shakers.

NEW MEMBERS.

McEnery, W. A., San Francisco.

Capps, Wm., San Luis Obispo.

DEATHS.

Baylor, Wm. C., Willows, Cal.

Lynch, Wm. F., Elmhurst, Cal.

Adams, P. A., Honolulu, H. I.